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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

23 JUL 1968

TO: Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Attention: Mr. S. J. Papich

FROM: Deputy Director for Plans

SUBJECT: Sirhan Investigation

1. A usually reliable source whose previous reporting has been accurate revealed to our Beirut representative that on 22 June 1968 Salim LAWZI, publisher of Hawadith, a newspaper in Lebanon, told Anwar JAMAL, Press Counselor and Information Officer of the United Arab Republic (UAR) Embassy in Lebanon, he was obtaining good results in raising funds for the defense of Sirhan SIRHAN, with more Christians than Muslims contributing. LAWZI further said he had met with Shafiq UMBARJI, Yusuf SAIDH and Walid KHALIDI to study and organize SIRHAN's defense. They had decided to meet with SIRHAN's father and send "some people from our place" to SIRHAN's brother in Los Angeles to "shake the matter from the name of the SIRHAN family and give it its proper importance on the international plane." They had also decided to tour Arab countries collecting money. LAWZI said he had received promises of 10,000 Lebanese pounds from Kamil ABD-AL-RAHMAN and 5,000 Lebanese pounds from Hani SALEM and expected to collect between 200,000 and 300,000 Lebanese pounds in Lebanon alone. (Note: Approximately three Lebanese pounds equal one U.S. dollar.) LAWZI indicated these activities were not related to those of the Federation of Arab Lawyers.

2. Our files contain the following information on the above individuals:

a. Salim LAWZI, according to a reliable source, is considered by the UAR to be a strong pro-Nasirist--although it is recognized he sometimes strays for opportunistic reasons--and his magazine is considered by the UAR Embassy in Lebanon and Cairo authorities to be the most articulate and important exponent of Nasirism in the Middle East. LAWZI reportedly received a subsidy of about 8,000 Lebanese pounds monthly for this widely read publication from Anwar JAMAL, the UAR Press Counselor noted above. This source states that after the June war, however, LAWZI wrote a series of articles critical of the UAR, and JAMAL and other UAR Embassy officials thought he had turned pro-U.S. JAMAL reportedly was furious with LAWZI. In this connection, LAWZI told another reliable source in September 1967 that he no longer considered himself a Nasirist. LAWZI said Nasir obviously erred in the

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way he handled the June 1967 Arab-Israeli crisis, that the swiftness and enormity of the UAR defeat demonstrated the inherent weaknesses in Nasserism, and because of this LAWZI has returned to espousing a more classical brand of Arab nationalism. In addition, in September 1967 LAWZI said he had seen quite a bit of the Soviet Press Attache in Lebanon before the latter was transferred from Lebanon, and that the Press Attache, both before and after the June 1967 crisis, tried to get LAWZI to accept articles for publication in Hawadith, for which LAWZI would be paid. LAWZI implied he refused this offer. It has also been reported by a reliable source that Chinese Communist diplomats from Damascus, Syria have visited the office of Hawadith, reportedly in connection with their subscription to this newspaper.

b. Shafiq UMBARJI was described in 1963 as chief local employee of ARAMCO Overseas Corporation, Beirut; has always been close to Egyptians and prominent Palestinian radicals; is himself a prominent Palestinian Arab politician.

c. Yusuf SAIGH (SAYEGH, SAYIGH) is probably identical with an individual of the same name who is professor of economics at American University of Beirut and who "confessed" Arab Nationalist Movement (ANM) connections to a reliable source in February 1968. SAYEGH participated in a Mid-East Institute conference in Washington, D.C. in early May 1963 and was a delegate to the Palestine Entity Congress held in Jerusalem May 1964.

d. Walid KHALIDI is a professor at American University of Beirut and in 1966 was appointed to the Arab League office in Paris. He was a Leader Grantee to the U. S. in 1959 and taught at Princeton in 1960. In May 1965 he was described as violently anti-U. S. Other information shows he is a very active member of the ANM and was suspected of having connections with British Intelligence.

e. Kamal ABD-AL-RAHMAN is possibly identical with one Kamal ABDUR-RAHMAN who, according to May 1946 information, was a Palestinian partner in the Trading and Contracting Company, Ltd. in Lebanon. He is probably identical with an individual of the same name who, according to January 1968 information, is owner of the CCC Engineering firm in Beirut and is also an ANM leader.

f. Hani SALEM is probably identical with Hani SALAM who in 1959 headed the Middle East Development Corporation in Kuwait. In September 1966 he was described as a civil engineer and vice-president of the newly-formed Bank of Lebanon and Arab World. In November 1967 he was reported to be on the Board of Directors of Intra Bank in Lebanon and president of Doha Company (Real Estate Development Company)

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3. Since SAIGH, KHALIDI, and ABD-AL-RAHMAN are reportedly connected with the Arab Nationalist Movement (ANM), we are attaching herewith a copy of CIA Special Report No. 0003/68A issued 19 January 1968 on the ANM. This Special Report is classified ~~SECRET~~/NO FOREIGN DISSEM.

CSCI-316/02732-68

Attachment:

Copy No. 1109 of CIA Special Report No. 0003/68A

cc: Department of State (without attachment)

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